



# **Safer Homes Fire Safety Advice**

**Please read our top tips to keep you  
and your family safe in your home.**

**For more advice visit our website,  
to keep up to date, follow us on  
social media.**





## Your high rise home

While you should not be at increased risk because you live in a high-rise property, it is vital everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire.

- Know your building evacuation plan and make an escape plan so you are prepared
- Close doors to stairways and keep exits clear of obstructions and don't use lifts
- If you're trapped in your flat get to the safest room, keep doors closed and use towels/ bedding at the bottom of the doors to block the smoke



**Stay put policy – if the fire is in another flat in your building, you are usually safest in your own home, unless you're affected by the heat or smoke**



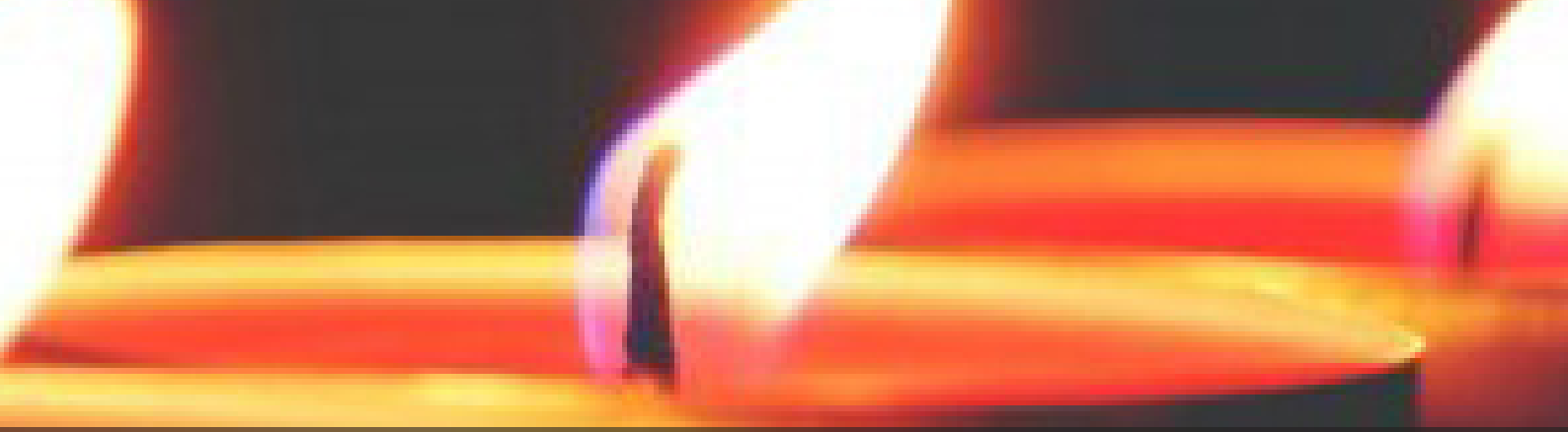
## Your rented home

If your home is rented or you are the landlord you must make sure the property is well maintained. **Questions to ask your landlord:**

- When was the electrical wiring last checked?
- Are sockets, switches, light fittings checked every year?
- Are gas heaters and appliances regularly maintained?
- Are the chimneys and flues cleaned and checked regularly?



**All landlords have responsibilities but tenants must also ensure the property they are living in is safe from the risk of fire**



## Candle safety

Candles create a lovely atmosphere in the home - but use with care, if left unattended an open flame can destroy your home in minutes.

- Place on a flat heat resistant surface in appropriate holder
- Never place under shelves, in enclosed spaces or near fabric
- Put candles out when leaving the house or going to bed
- Keep away from children and pets
- Leave to cool before trying to move



**Never leave candles unattended**



## Kitchen safety

Did you know...the kitchen is the most dangerous room in the home, it is where the majority of fires start.

- Stand by your pan – take it off the heat, turn off the hob/grill if you have to leave the kitchen
- Don't drink and cook – alcohol and cooking don't mix, fires start when you get distracted
- Keep it clean – remove burnt food and fat from your cooker, hob, grill pan, toaster, microwave



**Chuck out your chip pan**



## Electrical safety

A third of all fires in the home are caused by faulty or misused electrical equipment.

- Maintain appliances - e.g. tumble dryers and washing machines, clean and clear excess fluff
- Don't overload plug sockets – extension leads can only take limited amps
- Devices e.g. laptops should be on a well-ventilated flat surface and not on beds or sofas
- Don't leave mobile phones on charge overnight and buy reputable chargers



Register your appliances and be the first to know of any safety repairs or recalls – [www.registermyappliance.org.uk](http://www.registermyappliance.org.uk)




## Heating safety

Heaters and fires can come in many varieties. Whatever type you use ensure it conforms to British Standards.

- Switch off before going out or to bed
- Keep heaters away from curtains and furniture and never use them to dry clothes
- Use a fire guard - to protect against flying sparks
- If the boiler is in a bedroom ensure you have a carbon monoxide alarm



**Get boilers serviced every year – this keeps them safe and efficient**



## Lighting safety

During the darker nights many people like to use different types of bulbs, lights or lampshades and decorative lighting is becoming increasingly popular.

- Keep lights away from fabric and other flammable materials e.g. curtains
- Check size and wattage of bulbs are correct for the lamp or light
- If using lamps and decorative lights check for damage to wires, replace broken bulbs and check the fuse in the plug is the correct size



**Outdoor lights – should be specifically designed for outdoor use and use an RCD-protected socket**

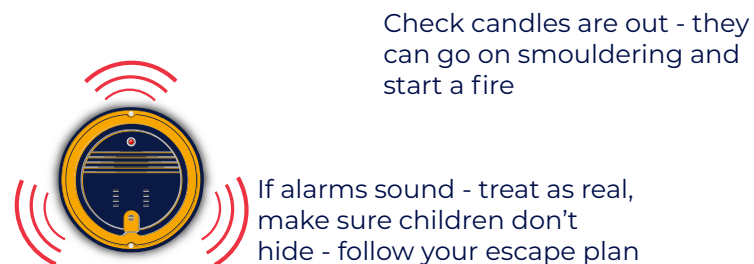


**Improve your area and log your complaint**



**FixMyStreet**

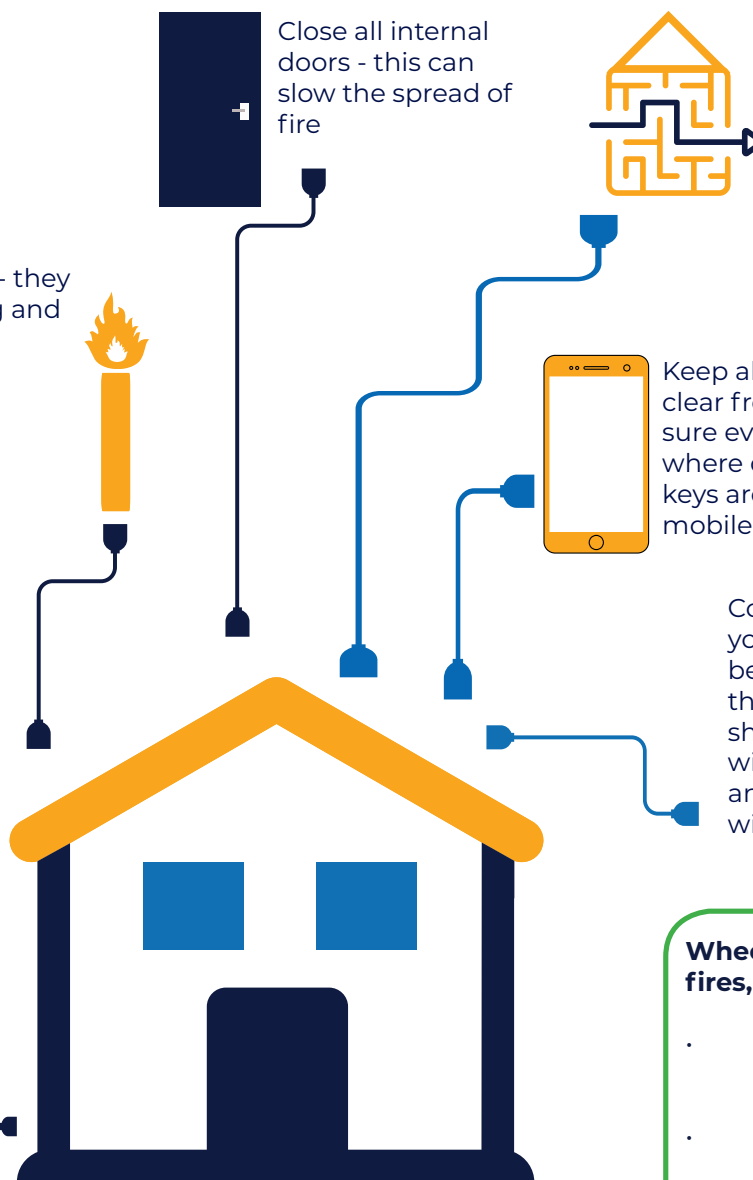
[www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)



Keep keys handy for doors and windows, where everyone can find them



Turn off and unplug electrical appliances - unless designed to leave on e.g. fridge/freezer



Close all internal doors - this can slow the spread of fire

Take everyone in the household into account in the plan, especially children and elderly or disabled people and remind them regularly, practise the plan

Keep all escape routes clear from hazards - make sure everyone knows where door and window keys are kept and keep a mobile phone handy

Consider having an escape room - if your escape route is blocked, it may be safer to stay in the house until the fire brigade arrives. The room should have a door you can close, a window big enough to climb out of, and ideally at the front of the house with grass below



**Wheelie bins are often targets for deliberate fires, to reduce the risk:**

- Put your wheelie bin out on the day of collection and bring back in as soon as possible
- Keep your wheelie bin in a secure place, if possible away from property
- Don't overload and never put hot ash in your wheelie bin



# OUR SERVICES

## Advocates

We have a team of Advocates and Home Fire Safety Officers with special training to support vulnerable adults in our community.

They can provide FREE visits to the home to identify risks, provision of risk reduction equipment, or additional security such as letterbox locks (subject to assessment).

They are also available to give safety talks to community groups and work with partner agencies to provide response, assistance and referrals if required.

To find out more visit our website or email the team on [advocates@clevelandfire.gov.uk](mailto:advocates@clevelandfire.gov.uk)

## Fire education

Our fire education team work with youngsters who are at risk of starting fires to educate them about the dangers and consequences of fires. To find out more email - [fsi@clevelandfire.gov.uk](mailto:fsi@clevelandfire.gov.uk)

We also offer a variety of other education and community services, visit our website to find out more.

**ARSON** is a crime  
Report confidentially to



## Smoke alarms

Smoke, the silent killer, is responsible for over half of all deaths in accidental fires in the home. A smoke alarm can give people an early warning and give you the extra seconds needed to escape.

- Fit a smoke alarm on every floor of your home
- Position on the ceiling – the hall or landing are good locations
- Regularly check alarms - to ensure they are working and change batteries if required
- Regularly dust alarms – to ensure sensors aren't blocked, make it part of your household routine

[www.clevelandfire.gov.uk](http://www.clevelandfire.gov.uk)

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